

## REMARKS

The Official Action of April 7, 2004 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 75, 76 and 86 have been amended to incorporate the recitations formerly in claims 95-97, and the latter claims have been canceled. Since claims 95-97 had been rejected only because they depended from rejected claims, and since the cited art had not been applied against such claims, the incorporation of the subject recitations into claims 75, 76 and 86 respectfully places these claims into allowable form.

Claims 93 and 94 have been amended to remove the language which the Examiner considered to be objectionable and thereby to remove the basis for the rejection appearing at paragraph 5 of the Official Action. All claims as amended are respectfully believed to be sufficiently definite to satisfy the dictates of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

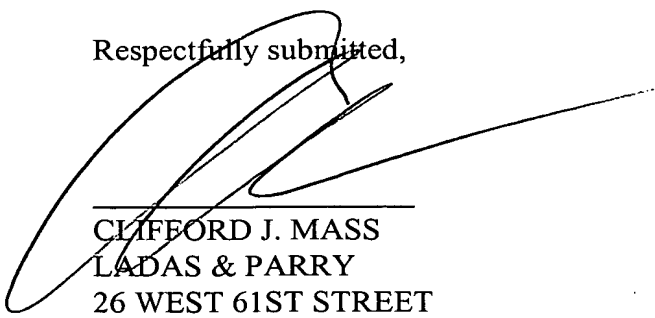
The prior art rejections at paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Official Action had not been applied against the subject matter of claims 95-98, which subject matter has now been incorporated into claims 75, 76, 86 and 93 respectively, whereby these claims are respectfully believed to be free of the cited art. Except for claim 94, all of the other claims presently of record depend, either directly or indirectly, from the

aforementioned claims. (Note: claims 84 and 85 have been canceled.)

Claim 94 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bredt et al. Applicants had argued previously that the antigens described by Bredt et al are larger than the antigens claimed in the present application. The Examiner has responded that certain embodiments of the claims read on Bredt et al because of the use in certain claims of terminology ("a derivative") that does not preclude a larger antigen. However, such terminology is not used in claim 94 and, indeed, this claim is limited by the "consisting of" transitional to the claimed sequence of amino acids. Accordingly, and since Bredt et al do not show or suggest the claimed sequence of amino acids, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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